



Be your best.

## NEWSLETTER - 15th December 2023

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*Dear all,*

**Happy Friday!** This will be the final newsletter of Autumn term – school closes for our Christmas break next Wednesday. We re-open on Thursday 4th January 2024!

Please take a good look through the 'Key Dates' section of the newsletter for what is coming up during Spring term, so far! More dates and events will get added as we move through next term.

**HUGE WELL DONE TO OUR F2 & Y1 CHILDREN** this week, who led our Christmas performances so beautifully. And thank you to all of our teachers for working hard to give them a chance to shine on stage for the first time!

**Mrs Cox has shared some lovely photos and information** about our lovely children who took part in 'Christmas in the City' this week – they made us so proud as always! Take a look at the later section of this newsletter to see why...

**A fond farewell to the amazing Jodie Burton** – our family support worker – who leaves us next week. Words aren't enough to describe the loss this creates for our school community and for all the many families that Jodie has supported over the years she has been here. I will personally miss Jodie immensely. We have managed to recruit a new family support worker, called Gail, who starts with us from 15th January...more of that next term!

**Opal Play** - a letter has been compiled to help our families understand why this project is so important and also to answer some of the most frequent concerns that have been raised this term. This letter will be shared before we break up for Christmas - please take a good read of it over the Christmas break.

**NEXT WEEK:**

**MONDAY next week will be our red-carpet award ceremony** for all children who have been nominated for an end of term award. Families of children who are getting a certificate will have been contacted by the office team and invited to come along at 9am on Monday morning. This is for Y1-Y6. Early Years children receiving a certificate have a small class-based ceremony at different times next week.

**MONDAY evening** some of our talented musicians / choir will be performing at St Jude's church at 6pm. Please come along and get the Christmas spirit going! Thank you to Mrs Cox for giving these opportunities to our children.

**TUESDAY is Christmas Party afternoon** – children are welcome to come dressed in their party clothes or bring something to get changed into...we will still be going outside over lunch so please plan carefully for this.

**WEDNESDAY is our final day of term.** We welcome you all back on Thursday 4th January.

**A special thank you to all of you who always contribute to making our school community so special to be part of. I hope you all have a restful, happy Christmas time and that 2024 continues to see our children happy, healthy and thriving! See you all in 2024!**

*Take care,*

*Emma Beardah*

*Headteacher*

*headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk*

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WALTER HALLS PRIMARY SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS

## The Annual KS2 Community Carol Service

St Jude's Church | Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 | 6-7pm

Join in and celebrate the festive season with our highly talented choir  
and musicians.

Family and friends are all welcome!



## Christmas in the City & a musical update!





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*This week saw our amazing Area Band children took part in a massive orchestral Christmas performance at The Albert Hall in the city on Wednesday evening. The event was huge and WH was with only half of the city schools who performed that evening. Over a hundred children made up this orchestra and when you watch the clips below, you will understand what a brilliant experience this actually was and how music is so central to our lives. Our 8 orchestra members playing clarinets and trumpets joined all the other schools and the result is fantastic. Both parents and myself are very proud of their efforts. Well done Area Band!*

<https://youtu.be/Luwj9eowP9E>

***A Fond Farewell***

*This week we have also said goodbye to Tony, our brass teacher, who has swapped schools with Nathan our new brass teacher! Here they are, one last time, playing a Daft Punk medley, the most challenging brass piece that they've ever attempted! Be prepared to be impressed!*

<https://youtu.be/QKYbCgckomM>

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## Christmas Fair Fun...



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*A few photos to enjoy from our recent Christmas Fair...thanks again to everyone involved, to the choir and to Grace, Eliza, Madiya and Mickijah for supporting school and The little Ted foundation with their stalls...*

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## OPAL PLAY UPDATE



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*Opal stands for 'Outdoor Play & Learning' – it is an 18-month project to set it all up and get it going properly, working alongside an external mentor who is highly trained, knowledgeable and experienced in helping schools make this a success. This isn't just about lunchtimes – this is about developing high-quality play literacy for children of ALL ages in school and it is about developing learning styles and approaches to learning better, in all areas of the curriculum.*

*Research is clear that OPAL leads to happier, healthier children who can learn more and function better with their afternoon lessons. It is proven to reduce negative behaviour incidents at lunchtimes and hundreds of schools across the UK, and in other countries, have adopted this approach.*

*We have spent a lot of time researching this and working with other experts and other schools to know for sure that what we are starting to do here is absolutely correct for our children's learning. For this reason, our determination remains in sticking with this programme, despite any hiccups or concerns that are being raised by a small number of families.*

*We have a large team of Opal leaders here and we are currently compiling a letter to send to all of our families, which addresses all of the recent concerns and feedback that has come through to us. We appreciate that some of the wet-weather and muddy play has caused extra pressures on families and that the need for different clothing may be adding to your stress. We understand that there will need to be effort from all sides if we are going to make this work and that some of you may need more time to get waterproof clothing in place for your children. We will continue to listen to your feedback and aim to work with you to find solutions – but ultimately, we will also be sticking with the Opal ethos when it comes to learning outdoors, in all kinds of weather.*

*Please take time to read our Opal letter over the Christmas period and we will be gathering more feedback on this in the Spring term – from both adults and our children.*

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## Key Dates coming up...



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### *SPRING TERM DATES:*

*Our Core Value learning is all about ASPIRATION*

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- *School re-opens on Thursday 4th January.*
- *Friday 19th January – Y1 will be visited by 'Tutti Fruitti' performers*
- *Friday 2nd February – Friday Focus Day – Maths and Times Tables Rock Stars!*
- *w/c 5th February – Children's Mental Health Week – a national theme of 'My Voice Matters'*
  - *6th February – National Safer Internet Day – 'Inspiring Change'*
- *w/c 5th February – Y5 will lead a Religious Education performance on Sikhism with parents invited – date TBC*

- **Friday 9th February** – *last day of half term. School re-opens for Spring 2 term on Monday 19th February*
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***Spring 2 term:***

***Our core value learning this half term is all about CURIOSITY***

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- **Monday 26th February** – *KS2 Times Tables Rock Stars Competition*
    - **Thursday 7th March** – *World Book Day – more details to follow*
  - **Friday 15th March** – *Friday Focus Day – Science. British Science week national theme is ‘Time’*
  - **w/c 18th March** – *we will introduce the topic of Autism Awareness Month, which begins in April*
  - **w/c 18th March** – *Y2 will lead a Religious Education performance on Passover with parents invited – date TBC*
    - **Monday 25th March** – *Headteacher Certificate ceremony 9am school hall for Y1-Y6*
      - **Wednesday 27th March** – *KS2 Spelling Bee competition*
  - **Last day of term is Wednesday 27th March. School closes to children. School staff attend INSET training on Thursday 28th March**
    - **School re-opens after the Easter break on Monday April 15th**
      - **OUR REMAINING INSET DAYS ARE: Thurs 28th March, Thurs 25th & Fri 26th July**
    - *Term dates can be found on our website here: <https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/term-dates/>*
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## ATTENDANCE!



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*As a school, we strive for 100% attendance each week. Anything above 96% attendance, we class as 'good'. We have an attendance team at school, who track attendance of individual children very carefully, to ensure all of our children are able to come to school all of the time and not miss any of their learning. If you need support with your child's attendance, please speak to us straight away.*

*We always report attendance for the previous week.*

***IN THE FINAL WEEK OF LAST HALF TERM, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 94.5%***

***THE HIGHEST CLASS ATTENDANCE WAS FROM: CLASS 5B with 97.6% but also doing well were Class 1B and 4B, both with 97.2%***



THIS YEAR'S TARGET IS 96% AND WE AIM TO REDUCE OUR PERSISTENTLY ABSENT FIGURES FROM 15% TO 8%



Keeping children safe online

## Parent Guides to Online Safety



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skips.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



www.skipssafetynet.org

## The importance of applying for Free School Meals.....

Did you know that our school gets money when a pupil claims their Free School Meal?

Help our school to invest in all our children—please complete an application form

This money provides us with extra resources that can be used throughout the whole of school



**Please visit the school office for more information and to collect an application form. Once you have filled the form in, please return it to the office and we can submit the form on your behalf.**



children each day. PLEASE DO NOT USE CLASS DOJO TO RAISE A COMPLAINT OR QUERY SOMETHING – call the office or send an email as above instead.

- Parent Mail – whole school messages, newsletters, whole-school events and all bookings for clubs and any visit payments are all done via Parent Mail.

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If you need help setting up Parent Mail or Class Dojo please call our office for help – our aim is to be as 'paper-free' as possible so all key messages will come via these channels.

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## CHILDREN'S CLUBS IN OUR COMMUNITY...

**THE RENEWAL TRUST**  
Helping communities grow

**ABC**

**EPIC PARTNERS**  
Empowering Positive & Inspirational Change

**MTVH**

**HEALTH HUB**

**FREE** **AGE 8-16**

**AT HILL VIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
RANSOM ROAD, NG3 3BP**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:00PM - 7:00PM**

These sessions allow young people to come together in a relaxed environment. You can choose from a range of activities from learning the knowledge of food, healthy living, and cooking skills. You can participate in sport with physical, mental health and wellbeing support. Along with mindfulness activities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0115 8372021  
WWW.EPICPARTNERS.CO.UK**

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**CHARITY NUMBER: 1150823**



# YOUTH NIGHT

**ONLY £ 2      AGE 11-16**

**THE OLIVER HIND YOUTH CLUB,  
EDALE ROAD, NG2 4HT**

**EVERY FRIDAY 5:00PM - 6:45PM**

These sessions allow young people to come together in a relaxed environment. You can choose from a range of activities each week and compete in friendly and fun games.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0115 8372021**

**WWW.EPICPARTNERS.CO.UK**



EPIC PARTNERS



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EPIC PARTNERS

**CHARITY NUMBER: 1150823**



# FUSION

Youth Club

## EVERY THURSDAY

During term times

### 5:30PM-8:00PM

10-17 year olds

### 50P ENTRY

At The Greenway Centre Trent Lane NG2 4DF

WHAT WE DO:

Instrument room   Sports   Cooking or baking  
Fun & Games   Arts and craft   Music studio



@sendprojectyouthclub



@SEND Project



@sendprojectnottingham





St Ann's Community Orchard

# Free After School Sessions

Every Wednesday  
3:30pm-5pm



Orienteering,  
exploring, bug  
hunting, cooking on  
the fire, arts, crafts,  
and more!

Children aged  
8-12 only



Booking essential: [www.staa.eventbrite.com](http://www.staa.eventbrite.com)  
Contact Rachel on 07498 864498 to book.  
The Community Orchard is on  
St Ann's Allotments, off Ransom Road,  
look out for the yellow signs.



## FREE PLAY FOOTBALL

### **Mondays**

4pm to 5pm (ages 5 to 11)

5pm to 6pm (ages 12 to 16)

### **Brewsters Park**

141 Brewsters Road, NG3 3BY

Free\*

**Book your place:** [bookwhen.com/renewaltrust](http://bookwhen.com/renewaltrust)

\*Sessions open to families living in St Ann's, Sneinton and Mapperley  
(Nottingham City Wards - Dales, Mapperley and St Ann's)







Skate Nottingham

# Free skateboard coaching sessions



**SATURDAYS AT BRENDON  
LAWRENCE SPORTS CENTRE**

10:30 - 12:00  
From 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
For ages 7+

	<p><b>Free Play Football - Free*</b>  <b>Monday 4pm to 5pm</b> - ages 5 to 11  <b>Monday 5pm to 6pm</b> - ages 12 to 16          Brewsters Park, 141 Brewsters Road, NG3 3BY  <b>Book your place:</b> <a href="http://bookwhen.com/renewaltrust">bookwhen.com/renewaltrust</a></p>	
	<p><b>Wicketz</b> - ages 8 to 16 - Free*  <b>Wednesday 5:30pm to 7pm</b> - ages 8 to 16          Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB  <b>Register here:</b> <a href="http://app.upshot.org.uk/signup/c310d54a/">app.upshot.org.uk/signup/c310d54a/</a></p>	<h2>Term time activities</h2>
	<p><b>BLSC Youth Club does ACE</b> - ages 8 to 16 - Free*  <b>Thursday 5:30pm to 7pm</b>          Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB  <b>Register here:</b> <a href="http://app.upshot.org.uk/signup/ad80caee/">app.upshot.org.uk/signup/ad80caee/</a></p>	<p>with The Renewal Trust (and friends!)</p>
	<p><b>PL Kicks - Football and Cricket</b> - ages 8 to 16 - Free*  <b>Thursday 6pm to 8pm</b>          Nottingham Academy, Greenwood Road, Sneinton NG3 7EB  <b>Book your place:</b> <a href="http://bookwhen.com/nfct">bookwhen.com/nfct</a></p>	<p><b>To find out more call:</b>          0115 911 2226  <b>or email</b>  <a href="mailto:enquiries@renewaltrust.org.uk">enquiries@renewaltrust.org.uk</a></p>
	<p><b>Feel Good Family Fun</b> - £1 per family / household  <b>Friday, 4:30pm to 5:30pm - monthly from 15 September</b>          Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB  <b>Book your place:</b> <a href="http://bookwhen.com/renewaltrust">bookwhen.com/renewaltrust</a></p>	
	<p><b>PL Kicks - Football</b> - ages 8 to 16 - Free*  <b>Friday 6pm to 8pm</b>          Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB  <b>Book your place:</b> <a href="http://bookwhen.com/nfct">bookwhen.com/nfct</a></p>	<p><small>*Free sessions open to families living in Nottingham City wards Dales, Mapperley and St Ann's</small></p>

## OUR CORE VALUE THIS TERM IS...



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*ASPIRATION. These are the main teaching points we will cover:*

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- *Making the most of our talents.*
    - *Everyone has a talent.*
    - *Everyone has their own type of 'clever'.*
  - *Different jobs and careers and how to get there.*
    - *Gender equality and stereotyping.*
  - *Setting goals and targets – small steps add up.*
    - *Aiming high.*
  - *Overcoming failure – remaining focused on the end goal.*
    - *Believing in yourself.*
    - *Determination – how can we build it?*
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*As always, your help in talking to your children about all of these things at home is appreciated.*

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**EASY-FUNDRAISING - Please help us!**



# Walter Halls Primary School

📍 Mapperley, Nottingham

£1,048.75 raised

128 supporters

Sign up and support this cause

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*We currently have 137 supporters who have helped to raise over £1000 for our school, so far. This is a meaningful amount of money that comes directly to us to help support our children. Next academic year we would like to put the entire money raised through this initiative towards all school visits and trips. We want to make sure ALL of our children get these chances, no matter their circumstances, and we have next-to-no spare budget to make these happen ourselves.*

*If you have yet to join, or know anyone else who would be willing to join, it is so simple and quick to do. You do not have to donate a set amount - simple shop online through this APP, spending the money you would normally spend, and we will get a small donation made each time! From take-aways to holidays there are so many online outlets that support this initiative.*

Simply visit:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterhallsprimaryschool/?searchSessionId=2857a911-d6d1-4247-9db6-689c60a13f64>

*Sign-up and support our school - thank you!*

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## The Little Ted Foundation



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*Walter Halls continues to support for The Little Ted Foundation - a charity very close to our hearts, following the sad passing of Mr Neal's youngest child, Baby Ted. We will continue to raise money whenever we can, to give to this very special charity. For more information on how you can help too, please visit the following link:*

[https://www.thelittletedfoundation.org/?qclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD\\_BwE](https://www.thelittletedfoundation.org/?qclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD_BwE)

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## Community & Family Support



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### ***FRIENDS OF WALTER HALLS PTA EVENTS:***

*This year, FOWH are raising money towards all school visits and experiences for our children. We do not have enough budget to cover the cost of visits or visitors into school and would like to make sure those who cannot afford to pay don't miss out.*

### ***FAMILY AND PASTORAL SUPPORT***

*We currently support many families with various needs including: food parcels, family advice, parenting support and other referrals to various helpful agencies.*

*Here are a few key contacts of people who may be able to help you:*

***Emma Beardah*** - Headteacher & Safeguarding team leader

***Jo Glover*** - Deputy Headteacher, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Safeguarding team

***Jodie Burton*** - Family Support Worker, Attendance officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

***Kerrie Chandler*** - Play Therapist, Child Welfare Officer & Deputy DSL

***Lee Neal*** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

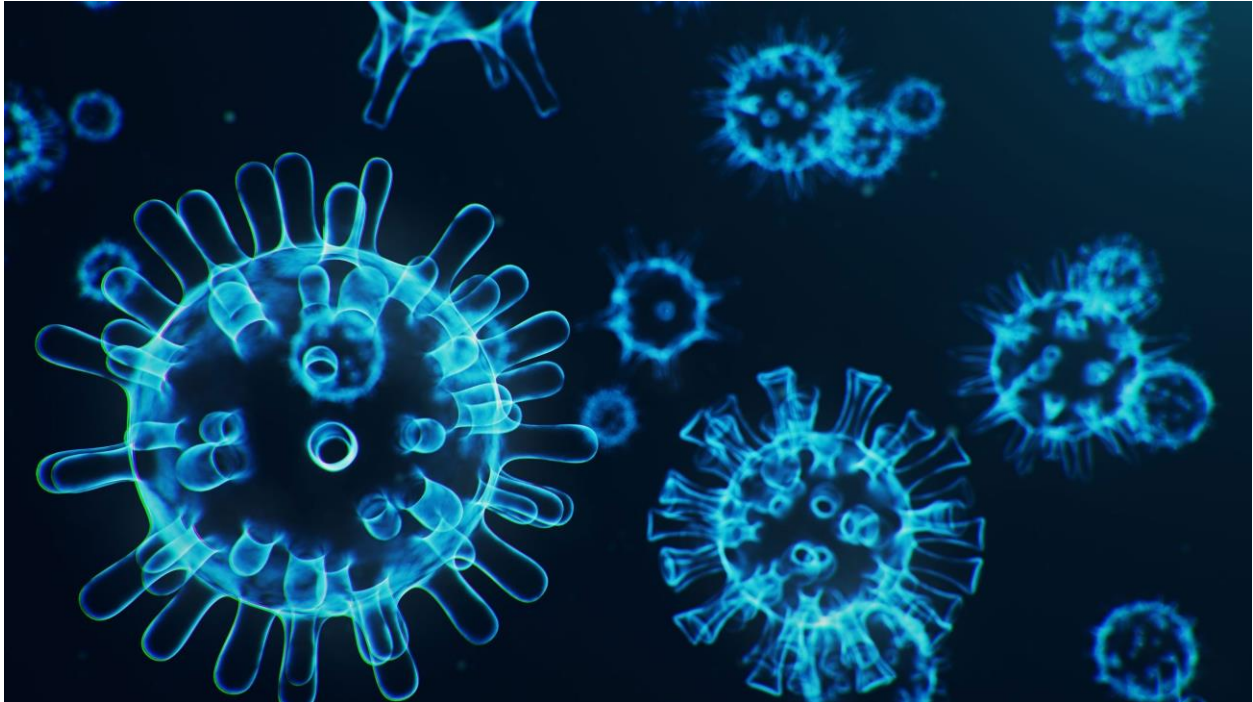
***Joe Hockham*** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

***Dawn Jukes*** - MHST link worker - on school site every Wednesday. Adult drop-in sessions 8.30-9.15am available

*PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE ON 0115 9150045 or COME AND CHAT TO US OUTSIDE IN THE MORNINGS OR AFTER SCHOOL*

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## Safety reminders



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- **COVID and other illnesses** - we want and need our children in school as much as possible. At the moment, advice is for children to isolate for 3-days if you know they have COVID. Upset tummies and sickness requires 48 hours of being at home, to stop the spread. See our poster for other common childhood illness and what you need to do about school attendance.
  - **Please do not gather on the school grounds at the start and end of days.** We have Epic Sports running after school activities and need to be vigilant in closing our gates at the right times to keep the children safe, both in the morning and after school.
  - **No dogs are permitted on site at any time** - we love them but not all children do so please respect this and make plans to leave them at home when coming to school site.
  - **Bikes and scooters** - all adults and children should not be riding through the site - please dismount and push them through our pathways.
  - **PE kits** – To avoid children needing to get changed during the school day, PE kits must be worn to school on the day of PE, along with a coat / jumper / cardigan to keep children warm during

*other parts of the day. PE kits must be plain blue tracksuit bottoms or shorts and a plain white top. If you're still unsure of PE days, please call the office.*

- ***Please be considerate and safe when parking outside of our school gates.*** *Parking officials patrol as regularly as possible. We politely ask that all of our families are mindful of road safety around our school, where very young children are walking in and out.*
  - ***Respectful behaviour on site*** - *We respectfully remind you that school is private property and holds its own set of expectations for conduct on site. If your child walks to and from school alone or gets picked up by another adult we need to know about this - please call the office. We expect all of our children to arrive and leave site in a respectful way and for the conduct of all adults on our site to be polite and respectful too. Repeated cases of problems with this on our school grounds can lead to us asking you to escort your children to and from their classrooms instead of arriving or leaving by themselves and we may ask adults to remain at the gates if respectful and polite adult behaviour becomes an issue.*
-